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But, on the whole, Mr. Digby's work is careful and scholarly, and nowhere else can one find so much learning on the history of our land law compressed into so small a space.

R. G. D.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF CONTRACT OF PLEDGE. As governed by both the Common Law and the Civil Law. By Henry Denis. New Orleans: F. F. Hansell & Bro., Ltd. 1898. pp. xxxi, 619.

This book is not in any way an attempt to write a comprehensive text-book on the law of pledge,—it aims simply at an examination of the present state of the common law on the subject in comparison with the civil law from which it is largely derived, and with the later forms of the civil law,—particularly the Louisiana Code. In the civil law pledges are a definite branch of the law clearly understood and worked out; in the common law on the other hand the subject is constantly confused with the general topic of bailments and with mortgages of chattels. And a comparison of the two systems is the more valuable and necessary, because the civil law has been so often half understood and misunderstood by the common law commentators,—notably by Story.

To set right these errors, to give a clear analytical comparison of the two systems,—so much this book has aimed at and accomplished. The differences are noted, the relative advantages commented upon, the diverging tendencies clearly pointed out. The whole method of the book is scientific, the work careful and systematic, the style admirably terse and straightforward, and if didactic, at least convincing. It is to be regretted that the citation of cases are so infrequent, and the references to the common law commentators so many, and again that the author has seen fit to place so little emphasis on tracing the growth of the law regarding pledges in the two systems.

This summary treatment and lack of attention to recent cases has led, in at least one instance, to actual error, p. 206, where it is stated as established American law, that the pledgee may repledge without consent of the pledgor,—the question is still an open one in many jurisdictions. Yet on the whole the book cannot fail to lead to a clearer understanding of the common law in regard to pledges.

J. P. C., JR.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[Entry under this head does not preclude further notice of a book in this or in a later number of the Review.]

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF THE CONTRACT OF PLEDGE. By Henry Denis. New Orleans: F. F. Hansell & Bro. 1898.

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION. Philadelphia: Dando Printing and Publishing Co. 1898.

THE FEDERAL COURTS. By Charles V. Simonton. 2d edition. Richmond, Va. B. F. Johnson Publishing Co. 1898.

THE JURISDICTION OF THE FEDERAL COURTS. By Howard M. Carter. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1899.

THE LAW OF PARTNERSHIP. By Francis M. Burdick. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1899.